

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00830 040407Z  
ACTION AID-59

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R 040340Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9462  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 830

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, LA  
SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE II EMERGENCY FOOD AID TO LAOS

REF: ROME 14145

SUMMARY: AS A RESULT OF TALKS HERE AND IN ROME, IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE CAN COPE WITH ANY POSSIBLE LAO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ADDITIONALITY OF OUR AID BY SAYING (A) THAT IT HAS RESULTED IN A 4,000 MT INCREASE IN DROUGHT AID, (B) THAT WFP HAS PROMISED TO BUY MORE RICE IF IT IS NEEDED, AND (C) THE LAO WERE SPECIFICALLY TOLD JULY 1 THAT SOME OF OUR AID WOULD BE CHANNELED TO PREVIOUSLY CONCEIVED AND AGREED-UPON WFP FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS.

END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ROME'S HELPFUL REPORT (REFTEL) WITH THE UNDP ACTING RESREP HERE IN VIENTIANE. WE THINK THAT ALL CONCERNED CAN NOW BE IN A POSITION TO DEAL WITH ANY POSSIBLE COMPLAINTS FROM THE LAO AS TO THE  
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ADDITIONALITY OF U.S. FOOD AID TO LAOS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED NO FIRM INFORMATION THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ANY SUCH COMPLAINTS. OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD OBTAINING AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION SO THAT IF ANY OBJECTIONS SHOULD ARISE, WE COULD DEAL WITH THEM.

2. THE FOLLOWING POINTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF OUR TALKS IN VIENTIANE AND IN ROME:

A. THE U.S. RICE CONTRIBUTION HAS RESULTED IN A NET 4,000 MT INCREASE TO THE ORIGINAL 16,000 MT PLEDGED BY THE WFP. THE WFP IS NOW PROVIDING 20,000 MT TO LAOS COMPOSED OF 12,000 MT BOUGHT WITH ITS OWN FUNDS, 4,000 MT BOUGHT WITH SWEDISH FUNDS, AND 4,000 MT OF U.S. RICE. (THE WFP IS ALSO CHANNELING ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES CONTRIBUTED BY DENMARK, NORWAY, AND THE U.K.)

B. THE WFP HAS PLEDGED THAT IF FURTHER LAO NEEDS SHOULD DEVELOP, IT WILL ENTER THE MARKET TO PURCHASE RICE WITH WFP FUNDS (REFTEL). (IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE WFP WOULD AUTHORIZE UNDP/VIENTIANE TO SAY THIS TO THE LAO, IF NECESSARY. WE WILL REFER TO THE WFP'S READINESS TO HELP IF WE HAVE TO, BUT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE WFP'S PLEDGE COULD BE RELAYED DIRECTLY TO THE LAO BY A UN OFFICE.)

C. SIX THOUSAND TONS OF THE U.S. RICE CONTRIBUTION IS BEING CHanneled TO TWO FOOD FOR WORK IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH (2446 AND 2447) AND TO A RESETTLEMENT PROJECT IN THE NAM NGUM RESERVOIR IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE (2437). IN ADDITION, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY SOME U.S. FOOD COULD GO TO A RESETTLEMENT PROJECT NEARER VIENTIANE (2438). THESE PROJECTS ARE NOT PART OF THE DROUGHT EMERGENCY PROJECT (1117), BUT THEY WILL SERVE TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF FOOD SHORTAGES

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IN LAOS OVER THE SHORT AS WELL AS THE LONG TERM. THE LAO MIGHT CLAIM THAT THIS 6,000 MT OF U.S. AID IS NOT "ADDITIONAL." THEY MIGHT SAY THAT THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE USED TO SUPPORT THESE PROJECTS AND THAT THEY THOUGHT THE WFP HAD PROVIDED FOR THEM BEFORE OUR AID BECAME A REALITY. HOWEVER, WE TOLD THE LAO ON JULY 1 OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE TO CHANNEL OUR AID TO PROJECTS AGREED TO BETWEEN THE LAO AND THE U.N. (VIENTIANE 736), AND THEY EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT THESE THREE POINTS BE MADE THE BASIS FOR ANY RESPONSES WE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE SHOULD THE LAO OR ANYONE ELSE RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO THE ADDITIONALITY OF OUR FOOD AID TO THE LPDR.

ROBERTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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